



Ellesmere Park Residents' Association

www.ellesmerepark.org.uk

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 24th.March 2011

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Terry McKnight, Councillor John Cullen, Councillor Judith Tope, Peter & Julie Mohr.

2) OPENING REMARKS

Bruce Thompson welcomed to the meeting a good turnout of around 80 local residents plus Tim Hudson (Public Relations Officer, Salford City College), Gale Blackburn (Salford Ranger Team), PCSO Tony Fletcher, Maxine Coyle (Monton Village Community Association), Councillor Ann Davies and Lisa Stone (prospective Labour party candidate for City Council).

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST OPEN MEETING 24/2/10

There were no matters arising. Bruce formally thanked Clare Moody for all her hard work in identifying over 70 actionable potholes throughout Ellesmere Park and then getting most of those filled in by the end of 2010.

4) THE THREE SISTERS SBI

Gale Blackburn of the Salford Ranger Team has taken over responsibility from Jill Tyson in managing the Three Sisters. Gale told us that the 4.5 hectare site has the safety of Site of Biological Interest status, is owned by the local authority Children's Services Department and current funding for the Rangers to manage the site is in place to March 2012.

Amongst the more commonly seen birdlife, the site attracts Heron, Moorhens, Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Long Tailed Tits. Gale is interested in hearing from you if you spot any unusual species on the site. Her contact email is gale.blackburn@salford.gov.uk

Gale's aims for the site are threefold:

- 1) To enhance the habitat, increase the diversity of the site and protected status.

- 2) To increase the potential for educational and recreational opportunities.
- 3) Protect its heritage, in particular the Roman Road.

Work scheduled includes increasing areas of open freshwater, maintaining grassland, increasing the diversity of woodland, creating a new pond near the boardwalk and creating two new ponds near the original three. In the last year, formal links have been forged with Wentworth High and also Irlam High whose pupils have already helped in repairing the boardwalk and with new planting. Eccles College students studying horticulture are regular helpers on the site.

Gale also plans to improve site access, extend the bridge, provide additional boardwalks and stone paths. Children's events planned for 2011 include bat walks, lantern making, pond dipping and bird feeder making.

The Three Sisters is a unique resource as in 2,000 years it has never been built on or even ploughed. The Manchester to Wigan Roman road runs through it for 120 metres and is unspoilt. There is, we think, no other continuous stretch of Roman road of this length surviving in the North West.

If anyone has any suggestions or enquiries please contact Gale Blackburn, the site's ranger, on 0787 2808003 email gale.blackburn@salford.gov.uk or the ranger team email rangers@salford.gov.uk

We would like to ask local residents to use their garden waste bin rather than tipping garden waste onto the site. Apart from being illegal, this will help towards keeping up the appearance of the Three Sisters and prevent the spread of knotweed. Dumping garden waste is classed as fly tipping.

If you see anyone fly tipping or dumping their garden waste on the site, then we encourage you to report this to the Environmental Call Centre on 0161 909 6500. If you see anyone starting fires on the site, then report this immediately to the Police on 0161 872 5050.

Bruce thanked Gale and her team for their enthusiasm all their hard work on the site.

5) EPRA INVOLVEMENT IN THE THREE SISTERS

It was suggested that we spend some of our available funds on the Three Sisters, as a feature, to plant three birch trees surrounded by some rustic seating. We would like the trees to be particularly striking and would hope that a variety called Betulaceae (Betula Utilis Var: Jacquemontii) would be suitable (according to Alan Titchmarsh, these trees are particularly luminous in their whiteness and good when planted in threes, which seems wholly appropriate for the Three Sisters).

We would also like to install on the site a boulder onto which we could put a plaque denoting the fact that the site has the longest continuous stretch of Roman Road in the North West running through it.

The meeting was unanimous in approving the plans and the officers will now investigate suppliers and costs. We will be guided by the Ranger Team in the siting of the trees and Gale will investigate whether we can have permission to have that particular variety of tree.

6) CHATSWORTH ROAD PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The various problems with parking on both sides of Chatsworth Road resulting, amongst other things, in problems with emergency vehicles getting through, were raised by local residents last year. Matters were brought to a head when a burger van parked near the College and began trading.

EPRA organised a meeting of residents who voted to have some sort of parking restrictions imposed. EPRA organised the funding for this (£6,500) via the Safer Routes to School fund under the Eccles Community Committee budget. The consultation period ended in February and we have been told that all objectors should have been contacted by Urban Vision. We also successfully arranged for Eccles College to remove the charges for students parking in their car park.

Whenever parking restrictions are imposed, the default position of local traffic regulators is that double yellow lines are marked at road junctions as they say this is a requirement of the Police. We remain unhappy with the need for double yellows, but managed only to achieve the concession that the double yellows at the junctions of Lichfield Road with Chatsworth and Chilham Road with Chatsworth be amended to single yellows (this on the grounds that these are not true road junctions as they are areas of unadopted land). We also negotiated that, if at all possible within the £6,500 budget, that 'Private Road, No Parking' signs be installed at Lichfield & Chilham in the same signage as the rest of the no parking signs.

The matter will now go back to the next Regulatory Panel meeting on 7th. April to discuss the results of the consultation exercise. The panel can decide to go ahead with the proposed scheme as it stands, go ahead with an amended scheme or withdraw the scheme altogether.

As an offshoot of our protestations regarding the burger van, with future applications, traders will have to state where they wish to trade rather than be given a blanket authorisation to trade wherever they like.

7) TREASURER'S REPORT

John Rabbitt said that the balance as at 31/12/10 was a very healthy £5880.30. This was a slight decrease of £23.50 on the balance as at the end of Dec 2009 which was £5,903.80.

Subscriptions across 2010 were £681 and main expenditure was on the purchase of a digital projector, printing costs and the cost of the AGM. We now have all the equipment we need for meetings (PA system, screen, digital projector), these items are owned by the members and any paid up member who wishes to borrow them can contact John.

There are currently around 130 paid up members. Subscription income so far this year has taken the combined bank balances to £6,428.17.

A full set of accounts is on the website.

8) ECCLES COLLEGE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Tim Hudson told us that a Neighbourhood Newsletter had recently been distributed and that to save future printing costs, if residents were happy to have future editions sent by email then would they please contact them by email rebekah.wilkins@salford.ac.uk

He was happy to report that Eccles College horticultural students were actively involved with the Three Sisters and that four students from Eccles College had received offers of places at either Oxford or Cambridge.

Two forthcoming events at Eccles College will be a café and plant sale in the bungalow (located on the right, just as you come through the entrance) in May and a reunion (barbecue and drinks) in June for past students. Local residents are also invited to attend this event.

9) HOME WATCH

PCSO Tony Fletcher told us that for the past five years, he has organised a regular Wednesday night kick around and football coaching session on Eccles College Astro turf pitch. Around 45 local youths attend and he never has any trouble. Thanks to Eccles College for making this resource available.

Tony runs a surgery between 5pm and 6pm at Eccles College where he is available to discuss any local policing matters. Local Home Watch co-ordinators do a great job and he is currently building up an Ellesmere Park GMP email database as a quick method of relaying information to us. All email addresses will be treated with the upmost confidentiality and not used for any other purpose. **If you would like to go onto the database, then please email him** on tony.fletcher@gmp.police.uk

He has 100 on the database at present and his aim is for 200 by the end of April. A newsletter will come out once a month detailing policing issues around Ellesmere Park, Eccles and Winton. Crime is thankfully low around our area. Bruce thanked Tony for all his hard work on our behalf.

10) EPRA WEBSITE

We have a new website address, www.ellesmerepark.org.uk

The new site is a work in progress and Terry McKnight is endeavouring to add more features across the coming weeks. There are various useful links from our website, all the minutes from the Open Meetings and information about our area. Please save it in your favourites and visit the site often.

11) ECHO (ECCLES COMMUNITY HALL ORGANISATION)

Eccles Town Hall was built in 1881 and the community hall was altered with a suspended ceiling in the 1970's to accommodate a magistrates' court. Structural maintenance was undertaken in the 1990's, a new disabled access installed in 2010 and it was handed over to ECHO in 2011. The banqueting hall is undergoing extensive refurbishment, the original ornate ceiling has been revealed once again and the objective is to encourage community ownership and use by local groups. The Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust is keen to install one of their organs on permanent loan.

Anyone interested should contact either Anne Godding at Eccles Town Hall on 0161 603 4291 or the Hon Sec, David Yates by email david.yates22@gmail.com

There is an open day on Saturday 16th. April 10am to 2pm, the same day as the Farmers Market, all welcome.

12) MONTON CAR PARK

Despite protestations from amongst others, MVCA, EPRA, local councillors and our MP, parking charges of £1.50 for 2 hours and £3.50 over 2 hours will shortly be imposed. We fear that the effect on local traders will be devastating and for the car park to be largely deserted. Monton Village Community Association members attended

the planning committee, but were told that parking charges had to be made as the Council were having to look at all measures to raise revenue in the face of the Government cuts. The decision to charge at Monton Car Park was made in 2002, but MVCA managed to fend this off at that time and also when the matter was raised again in 2007 and 2009.

Photographs of the car park in full use have been recently taken and we will compare these with ones to be taken of an expected empty car park once the charges are imposed to show the folly of this policy. We can then continue to press the matter to show that little revenue will be generated at the cost of trade going elsewhere where free parking is still available. In the meanwhile, we encourage you to please walk into Monton and continue to support local businesses.

MCVA's website is www.montonvillage.org.uk

13) ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

An invitation to stand as Chairman received no offers from the floor and it was therefore agreed that Bruce Thompson be appointed Chair and his previous position of Vice-Chair remain unfilled. In the absence of any other nominations Bob Berry agreed to continue as Secretary and John Rabbitt agreed to continue as Treasurer.

There was a vote of thanks for the officers for their continued work on behalf of the Association.

13) AOB

Dave Symons, our popular local Creamline Dairies milkman, has been delivering milk in Ellesmere Park in all weathers for the past 25 years and he retires on 25th. March. The meeting agreed unanimously to show our appreciation with a card and a gift token of £20. Dave has decided to keep busy by doing some gardening and if anyone is interested in employing him, we hope to distribute his contact details shortly. Our new milkman is called Barry.

Bert Cresswell asked if we could find out why there had been scaffolding around Cavendish House for many months with no sign of building work.. Bruce agreed to try and find the answer.

To celebrate the forthcoming Royal wedding, a street party is being arranged by local residents for the end of Ellesmere Road (not the Quaker Bridge end). Alternatively there is 'A Right Royal Evening' (One for the ladies) at Monton Sports Club Friday 29th. April with a three course meal, a comedienne and male waiters. Tickets are available from the club at £20 per head.

Bruce thanked everyone for attending and thanked in particular the staff at Monton Sports Club.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

To keep up to date with planning applications, visit our website www.ellesmerepark.org.uk and follow the link.

